



School District of Altoona

"Home of the Railroaders"

# RAILS REVIEW

WINTER · 2019

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

by Dan Peggs, Superintendent

*"If a child can't learn the way we teach,  
maybe we should teach the way they learn."*

- Ignacio Estrada

To kick-off the 19-20 school year I brought forward three words that I believe will help our district move forward: FOCUS, ALIGNMENT, and COMMUNICATION. Bringing these words to life has proven to be a joy in the work that I do each day. But what does this look like?



**FOCUS:** This means that we will be spending our time on the work that we know moves the needle the most for our students. Strong evidence in research supports that if students know what they are expected to learn ahead of time, they will most likely hit the target and learn it. We call this a learning target. We also know that teachers who effectively check for student learning on a daily basis, are more likely to respond to learning needs. We call this formative assessment. In simple terms: If students know what they are supposed to learn each day, they are likely to learn it. If teachers check for student understanding each day, they will adjust their teaching if learning did not take place, rather than just move on to the next lesson.

**ALIGNMENT:** Starting this year, the staff at all four schools are working together on the focus I just described above - Learning targets and formative assessment. The vital word here is "together." This word encompasses the alignment that we seek. Each administrator is responsible for supporting our staff in staying focused and accomplishing our goals. We have eliminated the fluff, shiny objects, and distractors from our workload as educators and are asking staff to grow in these two practices. As principals and leaders, we are surveying students in every classroom in the district to measure if these practices are happening, then creating action steps to improve their frequency. This has not happened in our district in a long time. In other words, alignment for us means we are improving the process of working together and learning from one another, as professionals, to improve student learning for all. How? By focusing on a narrow band of research that we know moves the needle.

The results have been fun. Our administrators are joining classrooms and asking students, "What are you supposed to be learning today?" and "Did your teacher check to see if you knew the learning target? How so?" As is always true with kids, the responses have been humorous, enlightening, and eye-opening. Best yet, we as educators are learning from their responses and are adjusting our practices. It is the difference between teaching and learning. Just because we taught it, does not mean they have learned it. As educators, we must ensure that learning happens for all and I am thankful to be working with such a high-powered staff who are doing everything they can to make sure student success continues to flourish in our school district.

Focused and Committed,

Dan Peggs, Superintendent

**OUR VISION:**  
Engage · Equip · Empower

**OUR MISSION:**  
"Offering large  
school opportunities  
with a small  
school approach."

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## IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE A RAILROADER



### DIG PINK IN OCTOBER

Railroader Volleyball and Football worked together to hold successful Dig Pink events in October. Together they raised \$2445, that will be shared between three causes: Marshfield Clinic's CLIMB® (Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery) Program, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in memory of Jordan Schadrie (former Eleva-Strum student), & district parent, ref and coach, Jeff Calkins.



### JESSE JAMES VISIT

Representative Jesse James, 68th Assembly District, visited Altoona to recognize two individuals in October: AHS Senior, Daeja Loew, Wisconsin State Poetry Out Loud Champion, and Alan McCutcheon, Student Services Director, for our 2019 Magna First Place Award for programs that break down barriers for under-served students.



### AMS RUNS FOR A CAUSE

On Tuesday, October 15, AMS Cross Country ran a relay mission 4.5 miles to the Marshfield Medical Center-Eau Claire Cancer Center with blankets that they raised funds for (\$300), and made for the CLIMB® (Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery) program by giving up a week's worth of recesses.

Most of the 25 kids chose to run all the way instead of doing it relay style. Running 4.5 miles is nothing compared to the brave kids who have a loved one diagnosed with cancer - and two of these runners, Nora Camlek and Jayden Humphries know first hand. There were tears of joy when they reached the Cancer Center.



### MIRANDA PAUL VISITS AES

As part of the Chippewa Valley Book Festival's Authors in the Schools program, award winning author Miranda Paul had an interactive visit with the 1st grade students in October. Paul is an author of more than a dozen books for children including, *I Am Farmer* which was a Spring 2019 Junior Library Guild Selection.



### STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

These 8th graders raked leaves for those who could use just a little extra help. Molding minds inside and outside the classroom.



### OAKLEAF STADIUM OPENING

Thank you to all the staff, students, donors, and community members who made this event possible.

# HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

by Jim Reif, High School Principal

Time flies when you are working with young minds. It is surprising how fast the fall goes when you are involved in school activities. Altoona is blessed to have a staff, and outside members who provide so many opportunities for students to be involved. High school is a great time to explore new opportunities and see what makes your life more fulfilling. This fall we have students involved in Show Choir, Marching Band, Forensics, Volleyball, Football, Soccer, and National Honor Society. When you read this we will have hosted the play Fruit Cake, performed by our students. Special shout out to, Morgan Dekan, Kate Harris, and Ally Wagner for earning a trip to the State Tennis Tournament. Go Rails!



Soccer hosted the first ever playoff game at Oakleaf Stadium. We have had students create a modeling club and a K-pop club, so if you are interested in building models

or Korean music we have a space for you. Railroader nation has a place for everyone, and is always looking for more ways to support our students. If your child is looking for an activity please encourage them to get involved or start their own group.

Homecoming was a huge success! Students were involved at all levels from the parade, to the assembly, to dress up days. Shout out to the sophomore class for winning the spirit stick! Spike (Dan Peggs) did a great job as grand marshal.

As part of cancer awareness month, our volleyball and football teams participated in the Dig Pink initiative and raised over \$2,400 for donations which were dispersed to the Marshfield Clinic CLIMB® program, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin (in memory of Jordan Schadrie) and Altoona Community member Mr. Calkins.

On November 5th, National Honor Society inducted 22 new members. NHS is based on the four pillars of Leadership, Service, Character, and Academics. Students must be well rounded, model citizens of Altoona, and serve their community. A huge “Thank You!” to Ms. Erin Lynnes, and Ms. Jenna Baxter for leading this group.

About the time you are getting this in December, every junior will have an opportunity to take a practice ACT online. While our focus at Altoona is to educate the whole child, and so much of what we teach doesn’t fit on a standardized test, the ACT is a significant exam that will impact students lives. Teachers will



use the information from this practice, to help students find the areas they need to improve upon for the state mandated March 3rd, ACT exam. We ask that you encourage your child to take this test seriously as it is used as part of the entrance decision in most post-secondary institutions.

As the health and wellbeing of our Railroaders is always on the forefront, please look for nurse Anita’s article on vaping. We want to do everything possible to protect your children including educating their parents/guardians.

We look forward to a great winter, with few snow days, so we can help your child grow into the best them they can be so they can go change the world for the better. If you or your child ever needs assistance, know that we have someone here for them.



# CARE CLOSET CHAMPIONS

by Joyce Orth, Communications Coordinator & Care Closet Team Member

You've probably heard some buzz about the school district's Care Closet, and it's justified! In just over a year since the final Rock'n on the River of the 2018 season gave us wings, we've had generous support! Clothing and hygiene donations, significant monetary donations, and many volunteers have contributed to special projects, sorted donations, put out new inventory, and covered shifts during our open hours. We've also had great media coverage and were recipients of 80 pairs of Calvin Klein jeans, not to mention blankets collected for donation to the Care Closet at someone's wedding!

We are often asked about our needs. Hygiene products are an ongoing need as items are restocked after each of our open hours. Our website is updated on a regular basis to reflect current needs and we ask that you hold off on donating items that are not included on our current needs list. We do not have the luxury of space to store extra items.  
[www.altoona.k12.wi.us/parents/care-closet](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/parents/care-closet)

The Care Closet is managed by a volunteer leadership team made up of former and current school district staff. The list of volunteers includes students, staff, a growing number of school district retirees, ladies from the Altoona United Methodist Church, and many more! The Closet has grown and expanded so quickly that we could not function without our volunteers!

Results of the recent ALICE Report conducted by the United Way, found our county (Eau Claire County) and parts of Chippewa County to have the second and third highest poverty rates in the state, right below Milwaukee. That means every donation, and every hour volunteered, can lessen the pressure for our families. With so many families living paycheck to paycheck, a coat, a pair of boots, a pair of jeans – even keeping toilet paper on hand, adds stress to a tight budget. Sometimes families have to choose between these necessities and putting food on the

table. These are real needs for real families. We're blessed to be able to offer an alternative shopping option for our families, and we're amazed at how we've been able to expand our Care Closet in such a short time. We're so thankful for the support from champions just like you.



## ABOUT THE CARE CLOSET:

The Care Closet, located at 809 7th Street West (just south of the Altoona High School), exists to provide no cost shopping for our families. Clothing, including outer wear, shoes and boots, as well as hygiene products are available.

## SCHOOL YEAR HOURS:

During the school year, October through June, the Care Closet is open the first Wednesday of the month from 8:30 to 11:00 am and 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Starting in January, the Care Closet will also be open the 4th Thursday of the month, from 4:00 to 6:30 pm to coincide with the dates/ times that the Altoona Compassion Coalition's food pantry (701 7th Street West) is open.

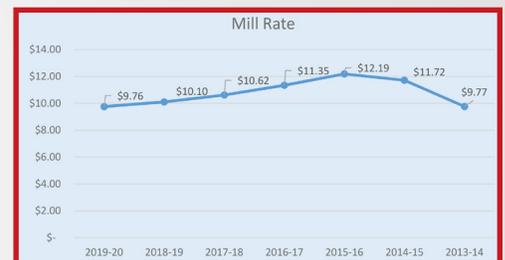
# 2019-2020 GROWTH IS ENCOURAGING

by Michael Markgren, Business Manager

For the fourth year in a row, there is great news for the School District of Altoona residents. The Mill Rate, which is the levy rate per \$1,000 of property, will again be decreasing. This year's will drop from \$10.10 down to \$9.76.

The added significance to this is that the Mill Rate is now below what it was the year before the construction referendum passed. A home valued at \$150,000 will pay, on average, \$51.00 less in school property taxes. This will vary depending on your property's Fair Market Value versus what it was last year.

The major contributor to the reduction is a District Valuation increase of a healthy 11.27%. While some of this increase is due to City of Altoona re-evaluations, much of it is contributed to new construction. This means real savings to the average tax payer. The steady growth of our District is a direct, inverse correlation to the decrease in the Mill Rate. We will see a reduction in the Mill Rate each year that Altoona beats the state average growth in District Valuation. State General Aid, the only other factor in the Revenue Limit, is calculated based on the previous year's valuation per resident member (student).



General Aid is deducted from the Revenue Limit to arrive at the local Property Tax Levy.

In addition to that, the School District of Altoona is now educating more students, 1,701 Early Childhood through Twelfth Grade, than at any point in our history. It's a great time to be a Railroader!

## 4K REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

by Laura Trachsel, Altoona 4K Coordinator

You are invited to participate in the School District of Altoona's 4K Program, our collaborative, community-based four year old kindergarten program, for the 2020-2021 school year. Altoona 4K is an enriched, play-based program designed to prepare your child for their educational career. We provide an enriched curriculum that provides school readiness skills and school expectations. We know that our children learn best through play and provide age appropriate activities in cognitive and pre-math skills, social-emotional, adaptive, literacy and language, and motor development. Our 4K program is a half day program (morning and afternoon options) that runs Monday-Thursday. It's a program designed for all children who live in the School District of Altoona and who will be four years old by September 1, 2020. Four year old children who have been accepted for open enrollment will also be eligible to participate. The 4K program is provided at no cost. Transportation options are available.

### The 2020-2021 Altoona 4K program is offered at five community sites:

- LITTLE STAR DAYCARE  
2245 Hayden Avenue
- WESTERN DAIRYLAND HEAD START /  
ALTOONA EARLY EDUCATION CENTER  
1314 North Hillcrest Parkway
- ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
1828 Lynn Avenue
- THE LITTLE SCHOOL HOUSE OF ALTOONA  
2328 North Hillcrest Parkway
- LITTLE MINDS MATTER  
3085 Meadowlark Lane

A brief description of our 4K site options is provided on the website.

4K Enrollment is completed online. Please visit our website at [www.altoona.k12.wi.us](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us) to complete the necessary paperwork. If you do not have access to a computer, we will have some available at the elementary school.



In addition to enrolling online, we require the following forms:

- Original Birth Certificate (we verify the information and return it to you)
- Proof of Residency – (mortgage documents or utility bill with your name and address on it)
- Immunization form (only required if your child received their vaccinations from a different state)
- Other important documents if applicable (IEP, court documentation, etc.)

Please bring the above listed forms to the Altoona Elementary School Office, located at 157 Bartlett Avenue, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., before Friday, May 31, to complete the enrollment process.

We encourage you to take advantage of Altoona 4K If you have questions, please contact Laura Trachsel, Altoona 4K Coordinator, at: [ltrachsel@altoona.k12.wi.us](mailto:ltrachsel@altoona.k12.wi.us). Please pass this information on to others who may not have received it. We want all Altoona families with four year olds to be aware of this exciting opportunity!

**For additional information, visit:**

**[www.altoona.k12.wi.us/schools/elementary-school/4k](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/schools/elementary-school/4k)**



# PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

by Alan McCutcheon, Student Services Director

As we quickly move toward the midyear point of the school year, you may be looking for additional resources and opportunities to equip you, as parents and family members, to best support your child with special needs. You may be feeling the frustrations that come with parenting, or struggling to provide your child with the help they need to be successful at home, school, or the community. You are not alone. While it can be easy to believe that you are the only parent or family member out there facing these challenges, you will find that having a network and community of support can empower you through the many ups and downs that we face in parenthood. So, please take a moment to consider these resources and opportunities, and become acquainted with others who may be able to relate.

## PARENT GROUP - SNAPS EC

Parents of special needs children also have special needs! SNAPS EC provides a means of connecting with other families in the Chippewa Valley area who have children with special needs. We meet once a month for a social gathering and additionally, once a month for an informational meeting. Join our Facebook group for all the details:

[www.facebook.com/groups/285708865286580/about/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/285708865286580/about/)

## PARENT GROUP - ALTOONA SPECIAL PARENTS

This Facebook group will keep you informed of upcoming trainings and events for families and students.

[www.facebook.com/groups/AltoonaSpecialParents/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/AltoonaSpecialParents/)

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## CONCERNS ABOUT VAPING

by Anita Schubring, RN BSN MEPD NBCSN, School District of Altoona Nurse

The use of e-cigarettes and the exponential increase in the number of teens using these products is a public health crisis. We have a disease (nicotine addiction), threatening the youth of our nation. Experts agree that vaping is harmful to students' bodies and brains.

Many teens are not aware of the hazards of vaping. Sixty-six percent of teens believe their e-cigarettes contain just flavoring, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

In the past two years, the use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) by high school students has increased by 135%. One out of four teens have used ENDS. ENDS are what e-cigarettes are – they deliver nicotine a highly addictive substance. Call it “vaping” or “juuling” but, what occurs is the delivery of nicotine via aerosol. The nicotine itself is much more concentrated in e-cigarettes than traditional ones. Nicotine is particularly detrimental to the developing brain.

What scientists and public health officials are now discovering are the effects of the other chemicals and oils in these ENDS products. Oils and flavorings approved for oral consumption have problematic effects on lung tissue when inhaled. There are toxic chemicals and metals in many e-cigarettes, and vaping can cause respiratory issues, potentially cardiovascular problems, and even seizures. These toxins are creating chemical burns in the lungs. There are added concerns where marijuana, has been

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Wisconsin Autism Society Conferences:  
April 30-May 2, 2020  
Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells  
[www.autismgreaterwi.org/conferences/](http://www.autismgreaterwi.org/conferences/)

Circles of Life Conference:  
May 7-8, 2020  
Glacier Canyon, Wisconsin Dells  
[www.circlesoflifeconference.com](http://www.circlesoflifeconference.com)

## RESOURCES

**WI FACETS:** [www.wifacets.org](http://www.wifacets.org)  
Free resources, webinars, and trainings for families with students with disabilities or impairments.

**Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative (WSPEI):**  
[www.wspei.org](http://www.wspei.org)  
Information on training events, resources for parents and educators on family engagement, and resources for teachers, parents, and students.

**Altoona Family Resource Guide:**  
[www.altoona.k12.wi.us/parents/support-services/special-education-student-services](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/parents/support-services/special-education-student-services)

**Eau Claire County Children's Wellness Connection:**  
[www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/home/showdocument?id=29934](http://www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/home/showdocument?id=29934)



legalized, that students may now have easier access to the drug, which can be used with easily concealed vape devices. Also, it has been found that similar to tobacco cigarette use, there are health consequences caused by “second-hand” exposure to the aerosolization of these oils and cancer causing chemicals.

After years of decreasing the number of Americans who use tobacco and nicotine products and preventing American youth from a lifetime of addiction, we are now seeing this trend reverse. These products affect brain development, create addiction and have other yet unknown health consequences. It can prevent our youth from reaching their full potential.

These products are marketed to youth to use and hide their use. Early in October, the Today Show did a feature segment, “Students are hiding vaping devices in plain sight.” Check it out at: [www.today.com/video/students-are-hiding-vaping-devices-in-plain-sight-70976581947](http://www.today.com/video/students-are-hiding-vaping-devices-in-plain-sight-70976581947)

There can be opportunities to influence and prevent youth from starting to use these products and correct their misconceptions (harmless, do not contain nicotine, better for you than tobacco products, only water vapor, are not addictive).

If you are concerned, ask your student about vaping or juuling. Tell them that it is not safe and they could suffer health issues or even death because of it.

# SCHOOL REPORT CARD AND DISTRICT REPORT CARD

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) generates a School Report Card and District Report Card for every publicly funded school and district in the state. Our school district report card ratings can be seen to the right.

The current **School Report Card is primarily based on last year’s performance, the 2018-19 school year.** At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each priority area:

- Student Achievement proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics on the annual state assessment
- School Growth measured by year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement
- Closing Gaps in performance between specific student groups (comparing English learners, low-income students, students with disabilities, and members of a racial or an ethnic group with their peers)
- On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness showing reliable predictors of how many students are on-track to graduate from high school and student readiness for post-high school success

Schools and districts are also evaluated on their level of student engagement – chronic absenteeism rates and dropout rates – when applicable.

Rating	Score	Stars
Significantly Exceeds Expectations	83-100	*****
Exceeds Expectations	73-82.9	****
Meets Expectations	63-72.9	***
Meets Few Expectations	53-62.9	**
Fails to Meet Expectation	0-52.9	*

The priority area scores are calculated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. It is important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability score is **not a “percent correct”** measurement. Based on its score, a school or district receives one of five rating categories, from Fails to Meet Expectations to Significantly Exceeds Expectations.

## Here are the results for our school district for the 2018-19 school year:

**DISTRICT RATING: 80.2**

Exceeds Expectations

**HIGH SCHOOL RATING: 69.9**

Meets Expectations

**MIDDLE SCHOOL RATING: 79.2**

Exceeds Expectations

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL RATING: 88.5**

Significantly Exceeds Expectations

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RATING: 80.6**

Exceeds Expectations

*Disclaimer: Altoona has yet again shown further evidence of high achievement - Exceeds Expectations, according to the State of Wisconsin. While we are proud of our state-issued report cards, it is important to know that this report denotes a moment in time, in a narrow field of what we do for our students. You’ll note that the report card does not take into account subjects such as science, social studies, art, or tech. Ed. It does not account for the extra/co-curricular opportunities, soft skills, or immersion experiences. And it does not account for the sincere love we have for every child within our walls that let them know that they belong here. More information and more detailed reports for each school can be found on our school website or DPI’s website. [www.altoona.k12.wi.us/parents/school-report-cards](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/parents/school-report-cards)*

## ARE YOU READY FOR THE SNOW & ICE?

School closing and delay information will be available to the community and staff through:

**RADIO/TV ANNOUNCEMENTS** called in by 5:45 a.m.\*\*

**FACEBOOK, TWITTER** and **WEBSITE** announcements by 5:45 a.m.\*\*

[www.facebook.com/altoonaschooldistrict](http://www.facebook.com/altoonaschooldistrict)

[www.twitter.com/AltoonaSD](https://www.twitter.com/AltoonaSD)

[www.altoona.k12.wi.us](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us)

**SKYLERT** (School Messenger) System will call your phone by 6:15 a.m.\*\*

\*\* Notification times may vary depending on weather-related or other circumstances.



# ALTOONA HIGH SCHOOL

## 2019-20

### WINTER ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

Schedules are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, check out our Activities Calendar found on our school website!

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Varsity, JV, C-Team

Start times = C-Team/JV first, followed by Varsity. Home games played in the High School Gym. C-Team home games to be played in Middle School Lower Gym.

Fri	11/15/2019	6:00pm	Home Scrimmage vs. Boyceville, Eleva-Strum, Hayward
Tue	11/19/2019	5:45pm/7:15pm	@ Somerset
Tue	11/26/2019	5:00pm/7:00pm	Pittsville (JV/V Only)
Fri	12/06/2019	6:00/7:30pm	Thorp
		6:00	Bloomer (C-Team)
Tue	12/10/2019	6:00/7:30pm	@ Fall Creek
Fri	12/13/2019	6:00/7:30pm	Regis
		6:00	Colfax (C-Team)
Tue	12/17/2019	5:45/7:15pm	@ Osceola
Thu	12/19/2019	6:00/7:30pm	Stanley-Boyd
Mon	12/30/2019	5:45/7:15pm	@ Elk Mound
Fri	01/03/2020	6:00/7:30pm	@ McDonell
Thu	01/09/2020	6:00/7:30pm	Cadott
		6:00	Bloomer (C-Team)
Tue	01/14/2020	6:00/7:30pm	Osseo-Fairchild
Fri	01/17/2020	6:00/7:30pm	@ Thorp (JV/V Only)
Mon	01/20/2020	6:00/7:30pm	G-E-T
Thu	01/23/2020	6:00/7:30pm	Fall Creek
Tue	01/28/2020	6:00/7:30pm	@ Regis (JV/V Only)
Fri	01/31/2020	6:00/7:30pm	@ Stanley-Boyd (JV/V Only)
Mon	02/03/2020	6:00/7:30pm	Arcadia
Thu	02/06/2020	6:00/7:30pm	McDonell
Sat	02/08/2020	5:45/7:15pm	West Salem
Tue	02/11/2020	6:00/7:30pm	@ Cadott (JV/V Only)
Fri	02/14/2020	6:00/7:30pm	@ Osseo-Fairchild
Thu	02/20/2020	6:00/7:30pm	Crossover Game(s)
Sat	02/22/2020	6:00pm	Crossover (2nd)
Sat	02/22/2020	7:30pm	Crossover (1st)



## BOYS BASKETBALL

### Varsity, JV

Start times = JV first, followed by Varsity. Home games played in the High School Gym.

Mon	11/25/2019	6:00pm	Scrimmage vs. Cameron, Melrose-Mindoro
Thu	12/05/2019	6:00/7:30pm	Thorp
Sat	12/07/2019	2:30pm	Elk Mound
			@ UW-Stout
Thu	12/12/2019	6:00/7:30pm	@ Fall Creek
Fri	12/20/2019	6:00/7:30pm	Regis
Fri	12/27/2019	5:45pm	@ Stratford Tournament
Sat	12/28/2019	5:45pm	@ Stratford Tournament
Fri	01/03/2020	6:00/7:30pm	Mauston
Tue	01/07/2020	6:00/7:30pm	@ Stanley-Boyd
Fri	01/10/2020	6:00/7:30pm	@ McDonell
Thu	01/16/2020	6:00/7:30pm	@ Cadott
Tue	01/21/2020	6:00/7:30pm	Osseo-Fairchild
Fri	01/24/2020	6:00/7:30pm	@ Thorp
Thu	01/30/2020	6:00/7:30pm	Fall Creek
Tue	02/04/2020	6:00/7:30pm	@ Regis
Fri	02/07/2020	6:00/7:30pm	Stanley-Boyd
Tue	02/11/2020	6:00/7:30pm	G-E-T
Thu	02/13/2020	6:00/7:30pm	McDonell
Mon	02/17/2020	6:00/7:30pm	Menomonie
Tue	02/18/2020	6:00/7:30pm	Cadott
Fri	02/21/2020	6:00/7:30pm	@ Osseo-Fairchild
Mon	02/24/2020	5:45/7:15pm	Logan
Thu	02/27/2020	5:45/7:15pm	Crossover
Sat	02/29/2020	1:00pm	Crossover (2nd)
		2:30pm	Crossover (1st)

# BOYS BASKETBALL, CONT.

## C-Team White

Home games will be played in the Middle School Lower or Upper Gym.

Mon	11/25/2019	6:00 PM	Home Scrimmage
Tue	12/10/2019	6:00 PM	Elk Mound
Thu	12/12/2019	6:00 PM	@ Fall Creek
Fri	01/03/2020	6:00 PM	Mauston
Tue	01/07/2020	6:00 PM	@ Stanley-Boyd
Fri	01/10/2020	4:30 PM	McDonell
Thu	01/16/2020	6:00 PM	@ Cadott
Tue	01/21/2020	6:00 PM	Osseo-Fairchild
Thu	01/30/2020	5:45 PM	@ Durand
Tue	02/04/2020	6:00 PM	@ Regis
Sat	02/15/2020	10:00 AM	@ECM Tournament
Mon	02/17/2020	6:00 PM	Menomonie
Tue	02/18/2020	6:00 PM	Cadott
Fri	02/21/2020	6:00 PM	@ Regis
Mon	02/24/2020	5:45 PM	@Logan
Thu	02/27/2020	5:45 PM	Crossover

## C-Team Red

Home games will be played in the Middle School Lower or Upper Gym.

Mon	11/25/2019	6:00 PM	Home Scrimmage
Sat	12/07/2019	10:00 AM	@ ECM Tournament
Thu	12/12/2019	6:00 PM	Durand
Fri	12/20/2019	6:00 PM	Regis
Tue	01/07/2020	5:45 PM	@ Colfax
Fri	01/10/2020	5:00 PM	@ Elk Mound
Mon	01/13/2020	5:45 PM	@ Bloomer
Tue	01/21/2020	6:00 PM	Regis
Thu	01/30/2020	6:00 PM	Fall Creek
Fri	02/07/2020	6:00 PM	Stanley-Boyd
Tue	02/11/2020	6:00 PM	G-E-T
Thu	02/13/2020	6:00 PM	McDonell
Mon	02/17/2020	6:00 PM	Menomonie
Thu	02/20/2020	5:45 PM	@Bloomer
Fri	02/21/2020	6:00 PM	@Osseo-Fairchild
Thu	02/27/2020	5:45 PM	@Elk Mound

# WRESTLING

## RAW Wrestling Varsity

Home events will take place at Regis High School.

12/05/2019	7:00pm	vs. Durand
12/07/2019	10:15am	@ Black River Falls
01/09/2020	7:00pm	@ Stanley-Boyd
		vs. Stanley-Boyd/ Owen-Withee
01/11/2020	10:00am	@ Cadott Invite
01/14/2020	7:00pm	vs. Black River Falls
01/16/2020	7:00pm	<b>IN ALTOONA</b> vs. Cadott
01/21/2020	7:00pm	@ Abbotsford
01/23/2020	7:00pm	vs. Osseo-Fairchild /Augusta/Fall Creek
01/31/2020	5:30pm	@ Thorp (Crossover)
02/08/2020	10:00am	@ Stanley-Boyd

# BOYS HOCKEY

## RAM Hockey JV/Varsity

Home games will be played at Altoona Hobbs. JV games show start time prior to Varsity game.

Fri	11/22/2019	7:00pm	@ Black River Falls
			Milt Lunda Arena
Tue	11/26/2019	7:00pm	Menomonie
Thu	12/05/2019	7:00pm	Grantsburg
Tue	12/10/2019	7:00pm	Baldwin-Woodville
Tue	12/17/2019	7:00pm	Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln
Thu	12/19/2019	5:00/7:00pm	JV @ New Richmond
Sat	12/21/2019	10:00am/Noon	@ Marshfield Tournament
Fri	12/27/2019	TBD	@ Menomonie Tournament
Sat	12/28/2019	TBD	@ Menomonie Tournament
Thu	01/09/2020	7:00pm	Somerset
Fri	01/10/2020	5:30/7:30pm	Viroqua
Tue	01/14/2020	7:00pm	@ Amery
Thu	01/16/2020	5:00/7:00 pm	@ Baldwin-Woodville
			Baldwin United Civic Center
Tue	01/21/2020	7:00pm	Chequamegon
Fri	01/24/2020	7:00pm	@Chequamegon
Tue	01/28/2020	5:00/7:00pm	New Richmond
Thu	01/30/2020	7:00pm	@ Somerset
Thu	02/06/2020	7:00pm	Amery
Fri	02/07/2020	5:30/7:00pm	Viroqua

# DANCE

12/07/2019	Menomonie Holiday Classic Competition
12/14/2019	River Falls Wildcat Invite Competition
01/04/2020	Prairie Farm Dance Competition
01/25/2020	WACPC Dance Regionals - Wausau
02/01/2020	State - LaCrosse

FOLLOW US



#GORAILS

# GIRLS HOCKEY

## ECA Stars Hockey

### JV/Varsity Schedule

Home games will be played at Altoona Hobbs. JV games show start time prior to Varsity game. JV games following a Varsity game is noted on schedule.

11-19-19	6:00PM	@ Somerset
11-23-19	Noon/2:00PM	@ Superior
11-29-19	12:45/4:30PM	Gobbler Cup vs. DC Everest @ Mosinee Rec Center
11-30-19	9AM, 10:45AM 12:30, 2:30PM	Gobbler Cup Cont.
12-03-19	5:00PM	Onalaska (JV to follow)
12-06-19	6:00PM	@ Tri County Ice Arena vs. Xavier (JV to follow)
12-07-19	2:00/4:00PM	@ Cornerstone Ice Center vs. Green Bay East
12-10-19	5:00PM	Ci-Hi/Menomonie (No JV)
12-17-19	5:00/7:00PM	@ Somerset
12-21-19	12:00PM	Middleton (JV to follow)
12-27-19	TBD	ECA Stars Tournament
12-28-19	TBD	ECA Stars Tournament
01-07-20	5:00/7:30PM	@ Hudson Sports & Civic Center
01-09-20	4:45/7:00PM	@ DC Everest
01-14-20	5:00PM	River Falls (JV to follow)
01-20-20	5:00/7:00PM	Somerset
01-21-20	7:00PM	@ Chippewa Falls Ice Arena vs. Chi-Hi/Menomonie (No JV)
01-28-20	5:00PM	Hudson (JV to follow)
01-30-20	6:00PM	Hayward (JV to follow)
02-04-20	5:00PM	@ Baldwin United Civic Center vs. River Falls (JV to follow)
02-06-20	5:00PM	Black River Falls (No JV)
02-08-20	1:00PM	Beloit Memorial (No JV)
02-10-20	6:00PM	DC Everest (JV to follow)
02-15-20	6:00PM	Marshfield



## WIAA STATE EVENT DATES

### Girls & Boys Hockey

Regionals:	02/18/20, 02/20/20, 02/21/20
Sectionals:	02/25/20, 02/28/20, 02/29/20
State (Boys):	03/5/20 - 03/7/20
State (Girls):	03/06/20-03/07/20

### Wrestling

Regionals:	02/15/20
Sectionals (Team):	02/18/20
Sectionals (Individual):	02/22/20
State (Individual):	02/27/20-02/29/20
State (Team):	03/06/20-03/07/20

### Girls Basketball

Regionals:	02/25/20, 02/28/20, 02/29/20
Sectionals:	03/05/20, 03/07/20
State:	03/12/20 - 03/14/20

### Boys Basketball

Regionals:	03/03/20, 03/06/20, 03/07/20
Sectionals:	03/05/20, 03/07/20
State:	03/19/20 - 03/21/20

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information regarding Athletics, including Middle School Athletic Schedules, can be found on school's webpage by clicking the "Athletics" tab. Any questions, please contact our Athletics Department.

Elissa Upward | eupward@altoona.k12.wi.us | 715-839-6031 ext.416 | Fax:715-839-7334

## MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATES

by Steven Buss, Middle School Principal

What an amazing beginning to the school year! After making a priority to build positive relationships and establish expectations with our students at the beginning of the year, we continue to make this a focus every day along with our academic expectations. There are so many great things taking place every day, it's hard to truly explain unless you can see them in action. I've shared just a few photos of our students enjoying the day-to-day learning opportunities provided by our staff just as examples.

Our 8th grade students recently traveled to the Leadership Development Course at Volk Field, Wisconsin. While there, they were challenged to unique opportunities pushing their limits of working together as a team, problem solving, and not to mention trying to stay dry! The students did not want to leave as they were very impressed by the tasks they faced as well and having a great time...whether they remained dry or not! We are looking to make this new experience one that our 8th grade students look forward to every year.



Our Cross Country team accepted the challenge of participating in a community service project and took it to an entirely different level. The team raised \$300 to purchase fabric for blankets they created and donated to CLIMB (Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery). This organization helps not only raise funds for cancer research, but helps children who are impacted by cancer either personally or through a loved one. These kids gave up a week's worth of recesses to make the blankets. They then were able to fill backpacks with 16 blankets and in true Cross Country style, 25 of our runners took part in the relay which turned into

20 of them running the entire 4.5 miles! Two of our very own teammates have been CLIMB kids and others have had cancer touch their families. The kids were moved to tears and their efforts are certainly to be applauded. We have great kids and staff who continue to amaze and leave their mark on others.

Speaking of having great kids, we are making it a priority this year to recognize students who are standing out in the crowd, being "a star" you could say. We are doing so with our "Star Students of the Week"! Each week, our teams of teachers are having the pleasant struggle of selecting a total of six students (two from each grade) as Star Students of the Week. These students stood out from their peers that week demonstrating excellent character and embodying what we are looking for from every student. Congratulations to those who have been selected thus far and we are looking forward to recognizing even more students!

Another way we are recognizing students, along with reviewing and reteaching some of our basic expectations, is through our monthly assemblies. During these assemblies, we again get to highlight some of our amazing students, share how we are doing as a building when it comes to following expectations for the past month, and also having a little bit of fun. Did you know that for the entire month of September, 96% of our students had 0 or 1 office referrals for poor behavior? Ninety-six percent! The vast majority of these students had no referrals! Great students making great choices and those who maybe made a poor choice, we are helping them learn from them. Each month during these assemblies we will celebrate our accomplishments and preview or focus for the next month.

One small change I'd like to make you aware of is how we will be reporting grades this year. While grades, both academic and behavior, will be updated online for you to view at the end of every quarter, we will only be mailing



report cards home at the semesters. This provides you with paper records at the midpoint and end of the year while still being able to see updates online throughout the year.

Thank you so much for all you are doing to support the success of your child. We can't do this alone and we rely on our parents as a part of our team to help our students reach their full potential. If at any time you have questions about the success of your child, please reach out to their teachers as we are here to assist.

We are off to a great start to the year and looking forward to what will come next!



# INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL UPDATES

by Andrea Steffen, Intermediate School Principal

We have much to celebrate at AIS! In addition to an amazing turnout at Parent Teacher Conferences, 97% attendance, we also had a large turnout at our fall Family Learning Night, entitled “The Wild Goose Chase.” Coming in December... the school play.

As part of the state accountability system, the Department of Public Instruction produces report cards for every public school and district the state. I need to take a moment to send a huge shout out to my staff and students. Our school once again reached the highest category possible, “Significantly Exceeding Expectations,” on our school report card.

All four areas of the report card were strong, but the area in which we truly excel is in Closing the Gaps. Wisconsin has large and persistent achievement gaps affecting students across lines of race, socioeconomic status, language proficiency, and disability status. Our excellence in this area is achieved when students who are behind academically show an increased rate of growth that allows them to catch up to other students. There are many factors that go into this excellence in performance, but if I had to pinpoint one overarching factor it is the culture we have in our school. I am blessed to work with staff who are passionate about their own learning and who have a growth mindset. They actively seek out areas for improvement and create and implement action plans for those areas. We are a team in our little school, and I am so, so lucky to be the principal of this tight-knit community.

While we have much to be proud of academically, we also have much to be proud of behaviorally. Our core values are to be safe, respectful, and responsible. We monitor behavioral incidents/

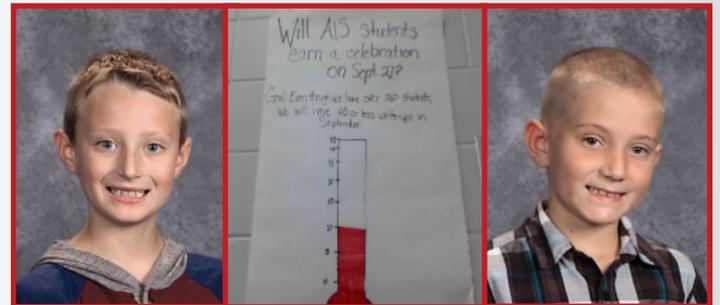
## ICE CREAM SCOOPS

by Logan H. and Nevaeh R.

The AIS principal, Ms. Steffen told us that we had a challenge to do to get a party. This party is for our classroom behavior. If the AIS school gets 155 ice cream scoops by the end of October, we will get a celebration with ice cream. In each and every classroom there will be an ice cream cone on the white board with scoops for different subjects. If each classroom gets 3 or more scoops on their classroom cone in the day, they get to put a big scoop on the white board in the iZone (see picture). This celebration is on Friday, November, 1st, 2019. If we can get 155 ice cream scoops we can get an Ice Cream party with the whole AIS School. We are really close and really excited about this party. When we get the party it will be right after Halloween. We are so excited!



write-ups and in our first two months our behavioral data showed that over 95% of our students had no write-ups so they earned a celebration. Check out the below articles written by our students about our celebrations. Looking forward to November!



## THE KIT KAT REWARD

by The AIS Reporters, Jacob H. and Logan H.

AIS Principal, Ms. Steffen put a paper thermometer in the iZone. She said if AIS could go close to a month with less than 45 write ups for our over 260 students, that AIS could earn a special surprise.

“Challenge accepted!!!” said the 4th and 5th graders determined to win the surprise. Even though none of the students in AIS knew what the surprise was. It was a long and juicy month trying to get less than 45 write ups but AIS did it! At the end of the month, they had 20 write ups, therefore AIS was so excited to have a celebration.

The next day, Ms. Steffen came on the announcements and said that AIS made the surprise party and said that it was a Kit Kat Reward. About an hour later the teachers took the students outside for an extra recess.

“Who’s the best?” asked Ms. Steffen.

“AIS!!!!!!” replied the students.

The AIS students played outside and ate their Kit Kat Bar. “GIVE ME A BREAK, GIVE ME A BREAK, BREAK ME OFF A PIECE OF THAT KIT KAT BAR!!!!!!” yelled AIS.

# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

by Tara Betlach, Elementary School Principal

It's been a busy start to the year at Altoona Elementary! Students have been engaged in numerous learning activities related to academic and social/emotional skills. This year we are implementing a new curriculum to assist our students with their social/emotional needs. Classroom teachers are using these lessons to teach our students about self-management, relationship building, cooperation, and conflict resolution. We also installed a sensory path in one of our hallways to help students. Sensory paths utilize a series of movements to decrease behaviors while increasing cognition to retain new information. We have found this very beneficial for some of our students. It helps them refocus and return to their learning space.

On top of caring for our students' social/

emotional needs, our community has provided many other health services as well. The Lion's Club completed vision screening for our kindergarten and third grade students. The NorthLakes Community Clinic donated their services to give 307 of our students dental sealants. Lastly, the Eau Claire City County Health Department gave flu vaccinations to 139 of our students. We are so appreciative of the extra support we have received for our students. Thank you to all those who donated their time and services!

We would like to invite you, the community, to enjoy our Four Seasons of Fun Fitness Trail. In 2016, Altoona Elementary School was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Mayo Clinic Health System to fund the Four Seasons



of Fun Fitness Trail. The fitness trail runs adjacent to the Altoona Elementary School, located at 157 Bartlett Avenue on the eastern border of the City of Altoona. The trail features six fitness stations that will encourage outdoor activity for people of all ages. Feel free to come and enjoy the trail and all it has to offer.



## SAVE THE DATE

### Locopalooza on January 25



The 21st annual Locopalooza show choir invite will be happening on Saturday, January 25th, 2020. We'll be hosting 15 groups from around Minnesota and Wisconsin, including last year's Grand Champions, Onalaska. We'll also have exhibition performances from the Locopalooza Pep Band,

Altoona Middle School's In Training Show Choir, and Altoona High School's Locomotion Show Choir. It will be an exciting day of singing and dancing, so come support the Altoona Show Choirs and Locopalooza! For more information, please contact Mr. Ranek at [jranek@altoona.k12.wi.us](mailto:jranek@altoona.k12.wi.us).



# GROWING THE BOARD AND FOCUSING ON RESULTS

by Robin Elvig, School Board President

*Alone we can do so little;  
Together we can do so much.*

- Helen Keller

I really like my job! That phrase may sound fairly uncommon. I simply feel so grateful to be working with a great group of fellow school board members as well as with a motivating, instrumental superintendent! I am grateful that we show respect to each other, even when we disagree on issues. I am grateful that we are each keenly aware of (and practice) our legal roles and responsibilities:

- We know that as school board members, we are not hired as educators or administrators. (God bless these people!) We are community members who were elected to govern our local school district. Governing via a school board involves setting expectations for the school district and monitoring the related results.
  - WHAT results will be best for our students?
  - WHAT results will be best aligned with our community's expectations?
  - WHAT results will allow the district to retain and inspire our high-quality educators?
  - WHAT results will be directed by state and national policies?
  - WHAT results will be the most important to assess this year?
- We need to balance a range of information when deciding what district expectations to set. When we set expectations for the district, we are essentially giving direction to and setting expectations for the superintendent.
- We know the board functions only as a single unit. (For example, I can't make any decisions as one person. I can't write and implement my own policy, then tell staff and students about the change I just implemented - SCARY!)



- We appreciate the clear differences in roles between the board and superintendent. The board provides the "what" (What results should the school district achieve?); the superintendent provides the "how" (How is the district going to attain those results?). We, as a board, are then responsible for monitoring the achievement of the results.

This beautiful autumn allowed me to spend some time reflecting on a variety of issues related to Altoona's Board of Education. An important part of my life during the last 12 years has been that of a school board member. It is hard work, involves continuous learning, and it can be emotionally taxing. I've made mistakes. I've cried, laughed, and celebrated with our school district and with our community. But in the end, I serve in this capacity to assure our youngest community members have access to a safe, engaging, high-quality education. Thank you to you, our partners in this endeavor, for making connections with the students and for creating a community that is safe and welcoming for our younger generation.

## SCHOOL BOARD CONTACTS

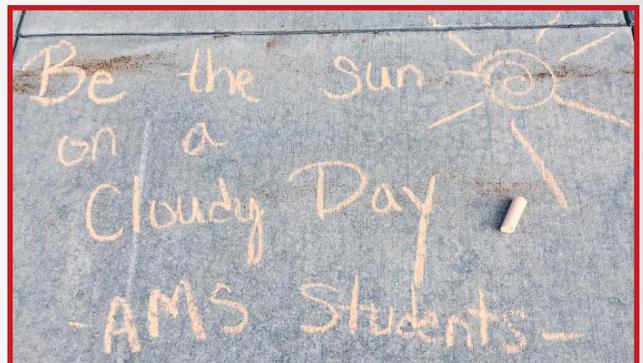
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 Dan Gluch, dgluch@altoona.k12.wi.us  
 Terry Neff, tneff@altoona.k12.wi.us  
 Sedona VanErt, Student Body Representative

For more information regarding policies, agendas, or general questions you may contact Dan Peggs at dpeggs@altoona.k12.wi.us or by calling 715 839-6180.

## NOW HIRING: JOIN THE A-TEAM

The School District of Altoona uses the Wisconsin Education Career Access Network (WECAN) website for the posting and accepting of applications for job openings. When the District has positions available, those openings may be found by accessing the WECAN website. All applications must be submitted via WECAN. The School District of Altoona does not accept unsolicited applications. Please do not send application materials unless applying for an open position. Unsolicited application materials will not be processed.

[www.altoona.k12.wi.us/district/employment](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/district/employment)



# COMMUNICATIONS ROADMAP

Joyce Orth, Communications Coordinator



In October, our District Communications Roadmap (aka Marketing & Communications Plan) was finalized leading up to its presentation to the school board on October 28. The plan, which is intended to serve as a roadmap, will provide us with intentional direction and focus. This short newsletter article will summarize the what, why and how.

## PROCESS SUMMARY:

As part of the process, stakeholder groups were identified along with ways that we communicate with each of them. Our communication gaps were evident and realistic priorities to address some of the most urgent needs and/or those that would have the greatest impact were established.

.....

Building a culture of engagement requires that we continue to build relationships and grow partnerships - communicate consistently and become a visible presence in the community.

.....

## WHY?

It's been said that only 4% of American citizens get news about their local public schools directly from their schools, and as Kate Nugent has said, *"We human beings are hard-wired for narrative. In the absence of a story, we will make one up."* We are responsible for telling our story. We believe it's more than we can accomplish through our typical avenues - social media, emails, press releases and newsletters. Building a culture of engagement requires that we continue to build relationships and grow partnerships - communicate consistently and become a visible presence in the community. When stakeholders become partners, educators are motivated, and, the icing on the cake, students succeed!

## HOW - OUR PRIORITIES:

1. While our alumni can be a source of powerful engagement, our connection with them is almost non-existent (communication void). We're missing out on what could be our most loyal support network, not to mention, great role models for our current and future student body. **Action:** We are in the early stages of working with Alumni Nations™ to build our alumni (and other community members) base. We will capitalize on the number of alumni who are also staff members by asking them to actively work with us in some capacity during this process. This initiative has the potential to have great impact on future fundraising and, as we **build alumni relationships**, on student success well into the future.

2. While social media is readily available at any time, research shows that YouTube (85% say they use), Instagram (72% say they use) and Snapchat (69% say they use) are the most popular online platforms among teens. **Action: Add Instagram** to our current social media mix. This simple action will fill a communication void, and better engage our student population.

## CONNECT WITH US

facebook.com/altoonaschooldistrict  
twitter.com/AltoonaSD  
youtube.com/user/AltoonaSchools



3. Our current **Mass Notification System** is outdated; the most pressing issue being our inability to communicate with our non-English or limited-English speaking parents. (Think snow day or an emergency with a robocall in English.) The mass notification system is also used for triggered attendance alerts, and low lunch balances. This is a high priority area. Another desired feature of a new system is the ability for anyone from anywhere to be able to opt in and receive custom email updates from within the notification system that would highlight a week or month, depending on what frequency is manageable. This opt-in feature would provide an avenue of communication that reaches well-beyond our parent group. **Action:** Research notification systems, with input from IT department (for technical aspects) and present a recommendation to the Superintendent for implementation as soon as practical. A new system will eliminate barriers, fill communication holes and have great impact.

4. Our physical presence in and around the community will further set our place at the table as a school of choice, give us expanded opportunities to build relationships with all stakeholder groups and grow partnerships. When stakeholders become partners, educators are motivated, and most importantly, students succeed. **Action: Establish a School District of Altoona Ambassador program.** This action will fill communication holes and have great impact.

**Is the Ambassador program of interest to you?** If so, stay tuned! Our plan is to establish an Ambassador job description and protocols, and by March, invite staff, parents and community members to apply to the program. By May, we will meet with the ambassador team to strategize and identify next steps including potential opportunities to be visible and establish our presence, and ways to consistently solidify our brand.

**The Marketing & Communications Plan is available for review in its entirety at [www.altoona.k12.wi.us/district/media](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/district/media).**



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## IMPORTANT DATES

### Winter Break

Monday, December 23, through Wednesday, January 1

### February Parent/Teacher Conferences

Tuesday, February 25, and Thursday, February 27

### Other Dates to Note

- Thursday, January 23 - Early release
- Friday, January 24 - No school all grades
- Thursday, February 27 - Early release
- Friday, February 28 - No school all grades

### Spring Break

Monday, March 23, through Friday, March 27



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